

Dear Legislators,

We are writing to your working group to highlight a very well known fact of which I am sure you are well aware: **banning items does not make items disappear!** Prohibition did not prevent alcohol from being consumed, making drugs illegal does not prevent them from being used, and banning 10+ round magazines will not prevent criminals from obtaining and using them.

Ask yourself one simple question: **how is Mexico's strict gun law working out? The rate of homicide involving firearms per 100,000 citizens in 2009 was 7.9 in Mexico; one of the highest rate in the world**

As a reference please read about Mexico's gun laws per the Americas Society / Council of the Americas:

1971 reform to the constitution made Article 10 more restrictive; citizens were limited to gun ownership at home, while the right to carry weapons—whether openly or concealed—became restricted to federal jurisdiction.

Gun ownership requires obtaining a one-year gun permit from the Secretariat of National Defense within 30 days of acquisition. A gun owner must belong to a shooting club to get a permit, can get permits for up to 10 weapons, and can only purchase ammunition for the calibers of guns owned. Other requirements include being 18 years of age, having mental and physical capacity to operate a gun, holding no criminal convictions, and fulfillment of military service. Private sale of guns is allowed, and subject to the same gun-permit laws. A separate permit is needed for a citizen to carry a weapon outside of a residence, and involves requirements such as an occupational necessity (for example, employees of security firms or rural workers).

*Despite the permit rules, a sizeable gap stands between the number of weapons in circulation and those registered. GunPolicy.org estimates that **the number of guns held by Mexican civilians total 15.5 million, and yet the number registered is roughly 2.8 million.***

We understand the feeling that the Newtown tragedy has prompted action of some sort. However, we hope that your group will attempt to put forth solutions that may have a meaningful impact on safety for our children and fellow citizens. Passing regulations that will likely only impact those of us who are law-abiding does nothing to prevent future episodes of gun violence. We urge you to

thoughtfully consider the impact of revoking liberties enjoyed by law-abiding Americans. Reactive passing of legislation is not the answer.

As a final thought, I leave you with the following: do you believe that criminals and people intent on committing heinous acts will comply with any law that you will pass? Any law that is passed will only be followed by law abiding citizens.

Respectfully submitted by,
John & Kristine Mehanna
135 North Street
Easton, CT 06612